FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

30 MARCH 1984

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes "directly and effectively" hit four "large naval targets" in the Khowr-e Musa area, northeast of the Arab Gulf, on 29 March, Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio announced citing a military spokesman. Two Iranian helicopters sent to rescue the crews of the vessels were also attacked and destroyed. This action shows that "destructive blows" will continue to be dealt to "all enemy naval and air targets in the prohibited military zone," the spokesman concluded.

Iraqi planes and helicopter gunships also inflicted "massive losses" on Iranian positions east of Basra, the communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses on 29 March reported. The Iranian communique for the same period, carried by Tehran radio, reported exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire on various battlefronts but did not mention any Iraqi air attacks.

Lebanon

A second meeting of the Higher Political Security Committee under the chairmanship of President Amin al-Jumayyil was held on 29 March, Beirut radio reported. Discussion centered on the "disengagement" of combatants and the reopening of all public utilities. Meanwhile, intermittent sniper fire continued in Beirut's southern suburb on 29 March while Lebanese Army positions came under fire in the mountain areas, according to clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. Soldiers of the French contingent continued to evacuate positions in the Museum road area on 30 March and move to Beirut port, Voice of Lebanon radio stated.

In other developments Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri met with the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon to discuss the latest developments, especially recent clashes in the south, Voice of Lebanon reported. The radio also announced that Soviet official Karen Brutents will meet with Foreign Minister Elie Salim in Beirut "next week."

Israel

Former President Yitzhaq Navon, in an announcement broadcast by Jerusalem radio on 30 March, said that he will not compete for the Alignment leadership in the upcoming election. Such a contest would prevent "internal consolidation" and could lead the Alignment to the election "weakened and at odds with itself," he explained.

Incidents in West Bank, Gaza

Two Arab youths in a refugee camp near Nabulus were wounded when Israelis shot at them, Jerusalem radio reported. An investigation into reasons for the shooting is currently under way, the radio added. Meanwhile, three DF soldiers and seven local residents were wounded on 29 March when a hand grenade was thrown at an IDF patrol in the Gaza Strip, IDF Radio stated. According to Radio Monte Carlo, the PFLP in Damascus has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Chedli Klibi was reelected secretary general of the Arab League for the next 5 years during the 81st Arab League Council session currently under way in Tunis, INA reported. In meetings being held on the periphery of the session, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz met with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to discuss bilateral relations and developments in the Palestinian situation, INA added. 'Aziz also held separate meetings with his Jordanian and YAR counterparts to discuss topics on the Council's agenda.

Meanwhile, the seven-member League foreign ministers committee set up at the emergency conference in Baghdad to find a way of ending the Iran-Iraq war also began a session in Tunis, KUNA announced.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 063 *30 March 1984*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Foreign Ministry Condemns Malaysian PM's Statement ..... C 1
Economic Consultative Council Holds Session ..... C 1
Radio Cites Operations Against Rebels ..... C 2
British Paper Reports Rebel Actions *[THE DAILY TELEGRAPH 28 Mar]* ..... C 2
AAP: Army Officials Killed; Sukhoys in Bargam ..... C 3
New Kabul Radio Station Begins Broadcasting ..... C 3
Briefs: Education Protocol With GDR ..... C 3

BANGLADESH

Ershad Appoints Ataur Rahman Khan Prime Minister ..... D 1
AFP Reports Ershad Remarks on Elections ..... D 1
Ganges River Talks Begin 30 March ..... D 1

INDIA

AFP: Guerrillas Stage Raid on Tripura Power Station ..... E 1
Four Killed in Amritsar Shootout 29 Mar ..... E 1
Final Upper House Election Results Announced ..... E 1
Minister on 'Attractive' Offer to Dockworkers ..... E 1
Gandhi on Pakistan, Gulf War, Economic Problems *[Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG 29 Mar]* ..... E 1
Prime Minister To Visit Middle East 7 April ..... E 2
Delhi Notes Start of Joint Rivers Meeting ..... E 2
Rao Concerned Over Sino-Pakistan Nuclear Links ..... E 2
Briefs: Loan to Mauritius ..... E 2
Army Enrollment Age Reduced

OTHER COUNTRIES

SRI LANKA

Air Force Personnel, 'Terrorists' Exchange Fire ..... G 1
Indian Reaction Criticized ..... G 1
Premadasa Speaks on Terrorism, Drug Problems ..... G 1
Cabinet Decides on Defense Fund, Other Issues ..... G 1
Spokesman on 15 March All-Party Committee Session *[THE SUN 16 Mar]* ..... G 1

IRAN

Foreign Minister on UN Chemical Weapons Report ..... I 1
Superpowers' Attitude on Gulf War Scorned ..... I 1
Chief Justice on Security of Hormuz ..... I 2
Dutch Bill on U.S.-Iranian Litigation Protested ..... I 2
Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1680 ..... I 3
Iraqi POWs on CW Bombing, Basra Situation ..... I 3
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Visits Montazeri, Others ..... I 4
Assembly of Experts To Convene 14 July ..... I 4
IRGC Officials, Minister Report to President ..... I 4
Judicial Officials Visit Guards Center Prisoners ..... I 4
Zia, Khamene'i Exchange Greetings Messages ..... I 4
NVOI Assails Use of Iranian Children in Gulf War ..... I 4
Clandestine Radio on Clashes in Kermanshah *[Radio Iran]* ..... I 5
Clandestine Notes Terrorist Activities in Europe *[Free Voice of Iran]* ..... I 5

Foreign Ministry Condemns Malaysian PM's Statement

LD291733 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] During a visit to the so-called refugee camps in Tarbili, the prime minister of Malaysia, who recently visited Pakistan, said that Malaysia will continue its material and moral support for the refugees and will be at the side of the people of Afghanistan in their struggle for their country's freedom. The Malaysian prime minister also announced his agreement concerning the formation of an agency for the so-called Union of Afghan Mujahidin in Kuala Lumpur.

In reply to a question by a BAKHTAR reporter, the DRA Foreign Ministry spokesman said in connection with the statement by the Malaysian prime minister:

The Malaysian prime minister's visit to a camp of bandits and agents of imperialism and his (?promise) to increase aid to the criminals who are encroaching upon and plundering the sacred soil of our homeland and disrupting the peaceful life and work of the courageous people of our country to develop their beloved homeland provokes the deep indignation in every Afghan patriot. Such a statement by the Malaysian head of government is nothing but blatant interference in the internal affairs of our independent and sovereign country.

Malaysia's establishment of official relations with antistate elements against a state which is a member with full rights of the United Nations is in complete contravention of international laws and norms of interstate relations. This act by Malaysia (?does not help) in any way whatever the policy of decreasing international tension, (?decreasing) the tense situation in Asia, and the creation of friendly relations among countries of the region, including the Islamic countries. On the contrary, this policy of the Malaysian leadership regarding Afghanistan will only intensify tension in the region and become a tool in the hands of international imperialism headed by the United States.

It is regrettable that, by pursuing such a policy in connection with the so-called Afghanistan question, the Government of Malaysia is following in the steps of the United States and its allies and by [words indistinct] specific actions, in collaboration with other reactionary regimes in the region, is entering the undeclared war against revolutionary Afghanistan.

Those who assist elements treacherous to the homeland and people of Afghanistan in fact approve of aggression against the DRA and join the ranks of forces who are hostile to our people and the national-democratic revolution. This policy of Malaysia toward the DRA is narrow minded, unrealistic, and hostile, and therefore we condemn it resolutely. This policy is contrary to the interests of the people of Malaysia, and also overlooks the will of the people of the world for national and social liberation from the chains of imperialism, colonialism, and reaction.

Visits by official representatives of states, the continuation of aggression against independent Afghanistan, and their statements concerning increasing aid to the counterrevolutionary bands can never (?intimidate) the courageous and freedom-loving people of Afghanistan. The revolutionary people of Afghanistan vigorously condemn the continuous conspiracies of the forces of imperialism, hegemonism, and reaction, and are ready to deal a shattering blow to every kind of design to encroach on their freedom and independence.

Economic Consultative Council Holds Session

LD300609 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] A session of the Economic Consultative Council was held yesterday afternoon in the Ministry of Commerce. It was chaired by Mohammad Khan Jalalar, minister of commerce and chairman of the Economic Consultative Council.

The BIA correspondent reports that the minister of commerce first recalled the resolution of PDPA Central Committee Politburo dated 28 Hout 1362 [18 March 1984] on the state of the country's national economy and explained the future consultative duty of the Economic Consultative Council in connection to the above issue and past activities of this council.

The secretary of the Economic Consultative Council, in accordance with the agenda, then presented the report of accomplishments regarding the resolutions of the past session which was then approved.

The report of the production committee on the improvement of production and export of carpets was then considered. The report of the production committee was approved in principle. It was decided that the specification, determination of various wool work, variety of colors and their guarantee of advance, as well as supply and distribution directly to producers in the nearest location where the new design of carpet is being worked out in accordance with the demands of the world's markets with the preservation of the country's traditional designs, should be carried out by the respective enterprises with the cooperation of the Ministry of Commerce.

The report of the finance and trade committee on the improvement of work in the import unions and the procedure for insurance of import and export commodities was then considered.

The report of the finance and trade committee about the insurance of commodities was approved as an alternative to the past views of the Economic Consultative Council.

The report of this committee on the improvement of work in import unions was approved after slight amendment and alterations.

At the end, a mixed commission on regulating the determination of prices — which is one of the major and important issues of the country — was appointed. It consists of the heads of the committees of the Economic Consultative Council, representatives of government organs, chambers of commerce, and representatives of various city guilds. The commission will consider the issue of prices and present to the council as soon as possible their views and proposals on major prices indices and formation of a system for fair prices.

Radio Cites Operations Against Rebels

LD271938 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] A security source reported that seven misguided elements recently joined their revolutionary government in Feyzabad, capital of Badakhshan Province, after perceiving the truth of the April Revolution and taking advantage of the amnesty decree of the Revolutionary Council and the message of the nationwide session of the social figures of the country's nationalities and tribes. They pledged to fight to the end against the enemies of the homeland and revolution.

As a result of the recent operations by the vigilant security forces of the country in (Zer Kharid), (Esa Khan), and Chahar Darreh villages of Qonduz Province, a number of counterrevolutionary elements were crushed and a number of various weapons, antitank and antipersonnel mines with a medicine depot and a large quantity of ammunition were seized.

As a result of successful operations by the country's security forces in (Roud Khel) village, Jowzjan Provice, a number of enemies of the people and the revolution were crushed.

As a result of other successful operations in (Och) and (Ozbek) regions, Herat Province, a number of counterrevolutionaries were crushed. Four rocket launchers, one medicine depot, and a quantity of antigovernment documents were seized by the vigilant security forces of the country.

In continuation of the process of clearing the country of rebels — those servants of reaction an imperialism — a number of counterrevolutionaries including (Abdol Rahman), ringleader of the so-called (Jami'et-e Islami), were killed in (Gortepa), village, Qonduz Province, as a result of the successful operations launched by the security forces of Qonduz Province.

According to a statement by a spokesman of the security forces, as a result of the successful operations of the country's vigilant security forces in the suburbs of Herat Province, a number of counterrevolutionary elements were crushed recently. Hand grenades, four communication sets, and a quantity of propaganda leaflets proving their ties with the rebel bands were seized and one of their D.SH.K. weapons was also destroyed.

According to another report, as a result of operations that took place in (Batkhel), (Mastani), (Qala-e Sa'idat), Mama Khel and (Sengarsara'y), Kameh district, Nangarhar Province, a number of elements treacherous to the homeland, the people, and the revolution were crushed and a number of assorted weapons were seized.

As a result of successful operations of the country's security forces carried out in (Mahmala) region and (Kour) village, Qonduz Province, a number of counterrevolutionary elements were crushed and a number were also injured. A number of assorted weapons were seized from them.

As a result of other operations carried out by the vigilant security forces of the country in the surroundings of Paktia Province, a number of the elements treacherous to the homeland and the revolution were killed and a number were injured.

According to another report, as a result of another successful operation by the country's security forces in (Arekhta Khana) village, Ghowr Province, a number of the counterrevolutionary elements were crushed.

British Paper Reports Rebel Actions

PM291547 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 28 Mar 84 p 6

[M. Aftab dispatch: "'50 Afghans Killed' in Russian Air Raids"]

[Text] Islamabad — Heavy Soviet bombing has killed at least 50 civilians, and flattened dozens of houses in the Shomali region of Afghanistan, according to diplomatic dispatches received in Islamabad yesterday.

Main targets were the villages of Nejrab and Tagab, 25 miles north of Kabul. The bombing, on march 13, followed continued rebel atacks on Soviet fuel and food convoys in the Panjshir area, sources said.

The Soviet garrison at Anvah, in Panjshir, has been strengthened by more soldiers and a large number of tanks, possibly in preparation for a Russian attack on rebel strongholds in the area.

In Ghazni, south of Kabul, the rebels attacked a combined column of Soviet and Afghan troops on March 18. Ten troops were killed and two armoured personnel carriers destroyed.

Diplomats reported 19 assassinations of Afghan regime military officers, members of the ruling Communist Party, officials of the secret service Khad and other supporters of the Government in the last ten days. Fifteen of these followed an incident in which a Soviet military truck killed three 14-year old boys and an old man in the district of Kabul.

In the Kabul municpal committee compound, four members of the Communist Party were machine-gunned on March 19. Three died on the spot while the fourth was badly wounded.

A Soviet soldier was shot at in the chicken bazaar of the (Shahare Mau) area of the capital on March 19. It could not be confirmed whether he died.

As a result of the panic caused by these assassinations, Russian troops now go into the Kabul Bazaars in groups of 10 to 25, escorted by armed guards.

One Soviet military officer, and three soldiers were killed in a rebel attack on the military post at Sami, between Dar ol Aman and (Chehalstoon), on March 24.

Rebels also bombed the Soviet-build mosque near Kabul Polytechnic on March 21, killing four pro-government mullahs and wounding seven, according to the Kabul newspapers.

The Education Ministry building was bombed on March 22, killing two, and inflicting considerable damage.

At Pashmul, near Landahar, rebels attacked a military post on March 16, killing seven Russians.

Sources also said that the rebels shot down a helicopter on March 13, and a Mig on March 16 near Bazar-e Panjva'i, close to Qandahar.

Three thousand Afghan Government employees and students staged a demonstration in front of the American embassy in Kabul on March 22. They were protesting at President Reagan's March 21 message supporting the fighting by Afghans against the Russians and the Russian-backed Babrak Karmal regime.

AAP: Army Officials Killed; Sukhoys in Bargam
LD291321 Riyadh SPA in English 1214 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] Islamabad, March 29, SPA — Twelve Afghan army personnel were killed during an attack launched by Afghan-Mujahideen on a government military post in Qandahar, Afghanistan's second biggest city, the AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS reported today. The personnel included an Afghan army colonel, two majors, two captains and seven soldiers, the agency said. The Afghan officers had gathered at the post, near governor's house in Qandahar for inspection purposes when the attack was mounted by the mujahideen on March 15, with rocket launchers, hand-grenades and light weapons, it added.

On the other hand, the agency said the Soviets had sent two squadrons of SU-25 (Sukhoy) aircraft to combat the resistance which will be further strengthened during this spring. It added that Sukhoys from the Soviet Union had already reached Bargam airbase, north of Kabul. The agency said the Sukhoys might be used in an imminent Soviet offensive against mujahideen stronghold of Panjshir Valley, 95 kms north-east of Kabul.

Six previous Soviet Attacks on Panjshir during the last four years had failed miserably.

New Kabul Radio Station Begins Broadcasting
LD230844 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Kabul, March 22, BAKHTAR — A new radio station of the DRA started its broadcasting for the first time. It is Radio Kabul which is separate from the Radio of Afghanistan. The broadcasting of Radio Kabul is separate from that of Radio Afghanistan.

Meanwhile the Radio Afghanistan broadcasting on FM waves, which is including features of interesting music from the country and the world, interesting literary and artistic programmes increased from two to four hours daily from the beginning of the current Afghan Year (Begun March 20, 1984).

With the establishment of the new radio station the broadcasting hours of Afghan radio has increased from 24 hours to 38 hours and 30 minutes.

Briefs

Education Protocol With GDR — Kabul, March 21, BAKHTAR — A protocol of cooperation in the sphere of education has been signed in Berlin between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the German Democratic Republic. On the basis of this protocol, cooperation will be expanded in this sphere between the two countries. Under this protocol, in addition to training education personnel and the sending of specialists to the DRA, the GDR will also provide a quantity of training material. This was told by 'Abdol Samad Qayyumi, the minister of education of the DRA to a BIA correspondent on his arrival to Kabul who had gone at the head of a delegation for an official visit to GDR. He said that he met with authorities of the German Democratic Republic and held fruitful discussions on matters of mutual interest. The minister of education of the DRA also had a meeting at the Ministry of Education of USSR on his way back home during a short stay in Moscow, and discussed cooperation of the two countries in the sphere of education. He said that a delegation of the Soviet Education Ministry is expected to visit Afghanistan in the near future for the continuation of these discussions. [Text][Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 22 Mar 84 LD]

Ershad Appoints Ataur Rahman Khan Prime Minister

BK291727 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1700 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] The president and chief Martial Law administrator, Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, has appointed Ataur Rahman as the prime minister of the Council of Ministers. This appointment will be effective immediately. In addition to the responsibilities of prime minister, Ataur Rahman Khan will also be in charge of political and parliamentary affairs. An official spokesman declaring this today said the newly appointed prime minister will be sworn in (?by the president) tomorrow.

In a brief statement issued from his Dhaka residence today, Ataur Rahman Khan said he will dedicate himself soon to the [words indistinct] and important task of ensuring healthy and [words indistinct] political process as provided in the president's program.

AFP Reports Ershad Remarks on Elections

BK291556 Hong Kong AFP in English 1514 GMT 29 Mar 84

[By Roushan Zaman]

[Text] Dhaka, March 29 (AFP) — Bangladesh's military ruler President Hussain Mohammed Ershad today ruled out any handover of power to a caretaker government but stressed that national elections were the only means to ensure a peaceful transition to democracy. "I want to return the country to democracy through elections," he said, adding that it was ironic that "the political parties don't want the polls."

The president told a luncheon meeting with the Overseas Correspondents' Association of Bangladesh (OCAB) today that martial law was unlikely to be lifted before the elections are held. The country's presidential and parliamentary elections are scheduled to be held on the same day — May 27. President Ershad today said that he would be agreeable to any change of the schedule "if the opposition parties want them to be changed".

He sidestepped questions on whether he would seek election to the presidency but said he would be ready to transfer power to anybody elected by the people. Under provision of the suspended constitution of Bangladesh, which is expected to be the basis for the future elections, anybody running for the presidency must give up any office of profit before filing nomination papers for the polls. Analysts pointed out that President Ershad, as army chief of staff, was still in the active service list and that in order to contest the presidential polls, he would have to resign the position by next month if the election is held on May 27.

The military ruler reiterated his committment to "bringing about a democratic order", referring to his pledge made two years ago when he took over "the responsibilities of the government" after ousting the four-month old elected regime of President Abdus Sattar. Mr Ershad, who elevated himself to the presidency last December, defended the March 24 1982 army takeover, saying that he had been "forced to impose martial law" — a step which, he added, had been welcomed by the people at that time. "I think it was the only martial law in this country which was hailed by the people", he said refuting the opposition allegation that "Ershad is killer of democracy". "It is the other way round. I rather saved democracy in the aftermath of the assassination of President Ziaur (Rahman on may 30 1981) and helped the civilian government to run the country and hold the presidential election", he said. "I was eventually forced to take over to save the country from total ruin", he added.

President Ershad meanwhile noted that progress had been made in everysector from economy to administrative reforms. "My good intentions should not be misunderstood", warned the 54-year old president who is under heavy pressure from the country's mainstream opposition alliances. "Whatever I have done, I did not do for self-aggrandisement but for the good of the people", he said referring to his measures for administrative decentralisation. Under these measures, he established 460 new upazillas (subdistricts) for which he had to postpone elections in the face of relentless opposition from the country's two political alliances.

On the progress of his dialogue with the opposition on national issues and the rescheduling of the elections, President Ershad said that the opposition alliances had agreed to sit with him to sort things out. He had earlier scheduled the planned dialogue with the two alliances for March 28, but the opposition groups had rejected the date. But the president today said both the 15-party and 7-party alliances had now informed him that they were ready for the talks which could begin in the first week of April.

Ganges River Talks Begin 30 March

BK300715 Dhaka BSS in English 0650 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Dhaka, Mr 30 (BSS) — Irrigation ministers of Bangladesh and India have resumed the 26th adjourned meeting of the Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) here this morning for finding a solution to long-term Ganges water sharing problem. Indian Irrigation Minister Mr. Ram Niwas Mirdha who arrived here last evening at the head of a eleven-member delegation to the talks, told reporters that both countries are very serious about evolving a permament arrangement for sharing the waters of common river Ganges. He however dismissed the idea of extending the present sharing arrangements for Ganges water during the current meeting of the JRC.

The present short-term sharing arrangements for Ganges expires next Friday. Agriculture Minister Obaidullah Khan is leading Bangladesh delegation at the talks. The 26th meeting of JRC was adjourned in New Delhi on February 16 after three-days of deliberations between two sides.

AFP: Guerrillas Stage Raid on Tripura Power Station

BK300922 Hong Kong AFP in English 0855 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Excerpt] New Delhi, March 30 (AFP) — Nationalist guerrillas staged an unsuccessful night raid on a thermal power station in Tripura, north eastern India, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported today. The guerrillas retreated to the jungle after a 70-minute gunbattle with police guarding the station, PTI said. Police suffered no losses and it was now known if the attackers had any casualties.

The attack took place in Baramura, about 35 kilometers (21 miles) from Argatala, the capital of Tripura which borders Bangladesh. A police official said it was the most ambitious operation yet undertaken by Tripura nationalists.

The guerrillas staged a two-pronged attack. A "suicide" squad made for the barbed wire perimeter fence hoping to reach an explosive store. A second team tied down the police protecting the installation, PTI said.

Reinforcements were despatched on a flush-out operation in the early morning but were hampered by the thickly wooded and uneven terrain.

Four Killed in Amritsar Shootout 29 Mar

BK291547 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] According to PTI, four persons were reported killed in a shooting incident in (Chowk Parag) near the Golden Temple in Amritsar this evening. Details are awaited.

Final Upper House Election Results Announced

BK291611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The Congress-I has bagged 47 of the 72 seats in the Rajya Sabha biennial elections. These include seven seats the party won unopposed earlier. In all 73 seats are to be filled. The elections for the lone seat from Meghalaya will take place on Saturday. Of the remaining 25 seats, Telegu Desam has won 5; All India Anna-Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam [AIADMK], 4; Janata Party, 4; CPI-M, 3; National Democratic Alliance [NDA] of Bhartiya Janata Party [BJP] and Lok Dal, 2; BJP, 3; Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam [DMK], CPI, Forward Bloc and independent, 1 each.

After today's elections the Congress-I will increase its strength in the Rajya Sabha to 152, a net gain of 20 seats. The party's gains were mainly at the expense of the Janata Party and the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Another feature of the biennial election is the emergence of the CPI-M as the largest opposition group, replacing the Janata Party. The Janata Party with its reduced strength will now be relagated to the third position after the AIADMK. The Congress-I captured all the seats in six states — Orissa, Assam, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, and the Union territory of Delhi. It bagged 6 of the 7 seats in Maharashtra, 9 out of the 11 in Uttar Pradesh, and 5 out of 7 in Bihar. In Rajasthan, the party won two out of three while the third seat was bagged by an independent supported by it. Of the four seats in Gujarat, the Congress-I secured three.

Noted opposition victories were in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, and Tamil Nadu. In Andhra Pradesh the Telegu Desam bagged five of the six seats. In Karanataka the Janata Party captured three of the four seats and in Tamil Nadu, the AIADMK secured four of the six seats. As already reported the CPI-M and its ally Forward Bloc won four of the five seats unopposed in West Bengal.

Minister on 'Attractive' Offer to Dockworkers

BK291555 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] The shipping and transport minister, Mr Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy, is stated to have made it clear that the total pay package of 400 million rupees offered to the striking port and dock workers is an attractive offer. This assertion was made during his talks with representatives of the four major federations of port and dock workers in New Delhi today. He said the striking workers should feel satisfied with this offer.

In today's resumed discussions, which continued for about 1 and 1/2 hours, it was pointed out that the 400 million rupee pay package brings the port workers at par with steel workers. In some cases the emoluments of port workers will be more than what was given to steel workers in their last settlement.

After the day's talks, an official spokesman said the discussions will be resumed tomorrow.

Gandhi on Pakistan, Gulf War, Economic Problems

AU291019 Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG in German 29 Mar 84 p 1

[Report on Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's comments to Austrian journalists during Chancellor Sinowatz' tour of India]

[Excerpts] In a talk with Austrian journalists, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi blamed Pakistan for the continuing tension between the two neighboring countries but at the same time affirmed her government's desire for peaceful coexistence with the Islamabad regime. Mrs Gandhi refused to directly comment on Indian press reports that Pakistan is said to have tested a nuclear warhead with Chinese aid as long as a few months ago. India has defeated Pakistan in four wars, Mrs Gandhi said, but nevertheless it has never attempted to force its will upon the weaker neighbor.

Mrs Gandhi referred to the Gulf war as a "catastrophe for everyone." In this war there can be no winner; Iran and Iraq will "both be losers," she said, adding that India is doing everything to mediate and bring about a cease-fire.

In her talk with the journalists the Indian Government chief spoke at length on New Delhi's economic problems. The developing countries, she said, have been even harder hit by the world recession than the industrialized nations. Progress in the North-South dialogue has absolute priority for New Delhi, Mrs Gandhi declared, and for this reason she already established preparatory contacts for a new world meeting at which leaders of industrialized nations from East and West should talk with partners of the Third World about ways toward a more just world economic system, without the straitjacket of a formal agenda. The first meeting of this kind organized by Mrs Gandhi was held last fall on the periphery of the UN General Assembly in New York. Chancellor Sinowatz, who attended this meeting, pointed out the possibility of Austria's acting as host for such a meeting, she said.

Prime Minister To Visit Middle East 7 April
BK301044 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] The prime minister will be going on a week's tour of Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Egypt from the 7th of next month. Mrs Gandhi is visiting these countries in response to pressing requests from the leaders in the context of the escalation of the Gulf war. As chairperson of the Nonaligned Movement, she has been deeply concerned with the heightened tension in the region. Mrs Gandhi took a number of initiatives to bring the Iran-Iraq war to an end and restore peace and stability in the region.

Delhi Notes Start of Joint Rivers Meeting
BK300422 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] India will make efforts to fulfill the mandate regarding the augmentation of the flow of Ganges at Farakka during the lean period. This was stated by the irrigation minister, Mr Ram Niwas Mirdha, in Dhaka. Mr Mirdha is leading the Indian delegation for the Indo-Bangladesh joint rivers commission meeting.

Our Dhaka correspondent says the 18-month mandate expires early next month. The joint commission, which opens today, will continue till tomorrow.

Rao Concerned Over Sino-Pakistan Nuclear Links
BK300852 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, has expressed India's concern about reports of contacts between Pakistan and China in the nuclear field. He was replying to a calling attention motion on the subject moved by Mr Ramgopal Reddy, Congress-I, and others in the Lok Sabha today. Mr Rarasimha Rao, however, assured the house that government has been keeping a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security. He said government would continue to do so with utmost vigil. The minister told the house that statements by senior U.S. officials and experts on Sino-Pakistan nuclear collaboration speak for themselves.

Recently, Mr Paul (Leventhal), president of the Nuclear Control Institute of Washington, has testified before the U.S. congressional subcommittee that China has transferred information regarding sensistive nuclear weapons design to Pakistan. In other testimony, Mr Howard Schaffer, Deputy U.S. assistant secretary of state, confirmed there is a nuclear relationship between China and Pakistan. Mr Narasimha Rao also referred to the recent claim made by a leading nuclear scientist of Pakistan about the ability of his contry to produce nuclear weapons. Mr Rao said this was denied by Pakistan after the interview was widely publicised.

Pakistan's spokesman have explained that the country wanted to acquire nuclear technology only for peaceful purposes. They also said that Pakistan had no intention of manufacturing nuclear weapons. But there has been no categorical denial by the Chinese Government of reports about Sino-Pakistan nuclear collaboration.

Briefs

Loan to Mauritius — The Export-Import Bank of India has extended a 50-million-rupee loan to Mauritius for financing the development of small and medium industries. An agreement for this was signed in New Delhi yesterday. The loan is repayable in 8 years. [Text][Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Mar 84 BK]

Army Enrollment Age Reduced — The minimum age limit for enrollment in the Army has been reduced to 16 from 17 years with immediate effect. For infantry soldiers or mechanical transport drivers, it will be 16 to 20 years, while for tradesmen, like painters, tailors, cooks, and carpenters, 16 to 25 years. The maximum age limit for candidates with matric or higher qualifications will be 21 years. [Text][Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Mar 84 BK]

SRI LANKA

Air Force Personnel, 'Terrorists' Exchange Fire

BK281614 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] The Defense Ministry reports that Air Force personnel, on their return from depositing money at a bank at Chunakam, had been fired at by a group of terrorists. The Air Force personnel had returned fire, and in the ensuing melee terrorists as well as bystanders numbering seven were killed and several others injured.

In a subsequent incident at Mallakam several persons are reported to have been injured.

Indian Reaction Criticized

BK291328 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] The attention of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had been drawn to a statement made in New Delhi by the official spokesman of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs yesterday expressing profound regret over an incident of violence in Jaffna in which at least 10 Tamils were reportedly shot dead by Sri Lanka Air Force personnel on Wednesday and, if the reports were true, deeply regretting the recourse to force and violence. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs notes with regret that the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi had not expressed any regret at the recourse to force and violence by terrorists who over the last few days have killed in cold blood six police and Air Force personnel in civilian clothes, unarmed and off duty. Such a one-sided statement cannot but adversely affect Sri Lanka's relations with a neighbor with whom she has enjoyed traditional ties of friendship.

Meanwhile, a communique released by the Defense Ministry today said that security personnel in a predawn swoop in the (Tide Pedro) area arrested about 40 persons suspected of being connected with terrorist activities. Interrogation of the suspects is continuing.

The Defense Ministry communique adds in another incident that terrorists had shot and killed two government [word indistinct].

Premadasa Speaks on Terrorism, Drug Problems

BK281222 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Prime Minister Premadasa yesterday emphasized nonviolence, unity, discipline, and faith as the main factors with which the threat of terrorism could be overcome. He also pointed out the necessity for convincing the people of the ideals for the cause of humanity in order to find a solution to the threat of terrorism now facing the country.

Addressing the seventh annual general assembly of the National Council of YMMA [as heard] at Maligawatta yesterday, the prime minister also said that Sri Lanka is a small country which is not self-sufficient in every aspect. Therefore, it was not possible for the country to be divided into various factions. He also said that separatism was not the only solution to the ethnic or racial problem.

Speaking of another problem facing the country today, Mr Premadasa said that various dangerous drugs are now illicitly imported into the country, and consequently the youths are affected as they are addicted to it. The prime minister pointed out that the government had taken every possible step to eradicate the drug menace. He appealed to the voluntary organizations like the YMMA to create more effective public opinion among the various societies in the country to cooperate with the government to eradicate this menace. Paying tribute to the YMMA for fulfilling its objectives, the prime minister said that search of its objectives should also be the motto for everybody to prosper in life.

Cabinet Decides on Defense Fund, Other Issues

BK291144 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] The Cabinet of Ministers at their weekly meeting yesterday decided to raise a National Freedom Defense Fund. The purpose of the creation of such a fund is to mobilize the whole nation in a fund raising campaign to defend the shores of Sri Lanka if the occasion for such defense arises. This was stated by the minister of state and cabinet spokesman Dr Anandatissa de Alwis when he briefed the media on the decisions taken by the cabinet yesterday.

Dr de Alwis said that the cabinet also discussed representations made to the government to move an address in parliament for the removal of the chief justice from office. This was in view of certain statements alleged to have been made by the chief justice at a function attended by him in Colombo recently which amounted to misconduct. The cabinet however decided that a select committee of parliament be appointed to inquire into these matters.

The cabinet had also discussed the measures taken and to be taken [words indistinct] terrorist activities by the new minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali.

Spokesman on 15 March All-Party Committee Session

BK280948 Colombo THE SUN in English 16 Mar 84 pp 1, 12

[By Aruna Kulatunga]

[Excerpt] More than 93,000 people of Indian origin whose citizenship status had not been determined when the Sirima-Shastri Pact expired, may receive Sri Lankan citizenship.

Consensus on this matter was reached at yesterday's committee sessions of the all-party conference [APC] where it was agreed that "the status of the stateless person must be eliminated."

APC spokesman Lalith Athulathmudali explained to newsmen that this would cover all those who did not apply for Indian or Sri Lankan citizenship under the Sirima-Shastri Pact, plus the natural increase of their subsequent off-spring.

Minister Athulathmudali said that while the pact covered 975,000 people and their natural increase over the years of implementation, India agreed to repatriate 600,000 people, while 375,000 were to be granted Sri Lankan citizenship. However, only 507,000 had applied for Indian citizenship, leaving 93,000 people stateless.

Mr Athulathmudali said that as far as he was aware, more than 280,000 people had been repatriated to India, out of the 507,000 who had applied for Indian citizenship.

This proposal was mainly based on a statement made by the Maha Sangha supporting such a move, Mr Athulathmudali said.

Answering questions, Mr Athulathmudali said the commitee also agreed on a broad consensus that there is a need to devolve central power to enable the people to participate in government at all levels, but it had not come to any agreements on the nature of this develolution, nor on its extent.

However, the committees had agreed that there should be an elected local government body at grass root levels.

Answering a question whether this would mean a revival of the village council system. Mr Athulathmudali said "in this case nomenclature was causing a problem.

"There is divergence of views on the administrative boundaries of this proposed local government institutions," he told newsmen.

As indicated at earlier news briefings, there has been a unanimous agreement among delegates participating in the conference that causes of ethnic violence and all forms of terrorism in all parts of the country must be eradicated.

Answering a question whether this included what was being called state terrorism, Mr Athulathmudali said he was not aware of any such kind of terrorism but he was aware of individual acts of terrorism.

Describing the agreements reached at committee sessions on eliminating the status of the stateless persons as "a step forward," Mr Athulathmudali said he personally considered this as an important decision as far as national security was concerned. He said he was basing that statement on his knowledge of international law.

Mr Athulathmudali said the conference could not reach a consensus on a broad spectrum of matters, including the form "sub-institutions" should take, in the devolution of power to the people. This, he said, was "a tough problem," adding that he could not foresee a consensus on this matter being reached at the plenary sessions which will resume next Monday.

When asked whether this would mean that the conference had reached a deadlock over the matter, Mr. Athulathmudali said it was a matter of comment.

"I give you facts and figures only," he said.

When a newsmen asked him whether, considering that the conference was convened to find an alternative to the cry for Eelam [separate Tamil state], he believed this alternative could be the proposed sub-institutions, Mr. Athulathmudali said "it could be."

The committees resolved to report to the plenary sessions the matters on which consensus had been arrived at as well as matters still to be resolved, Mr Athulathmudali said.

Meanwhile, the press communique issued after the APC yesterday said.

"The all party conference convened in committee under the chairmanship of the President at 6.00 p.m. yesterday evening.

"Some other delegations made statements to the committee.

"The committee resolved to report to plenary the matters on which consensus had been arrived at as well as matters still to be resolved.

Foreign Minister on UN Chemical Weapons Report
LD291431 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] According to our correspondent, foreign ambassadors, chargesd'affaires, and diplomats in Tehran met at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this morning by invitation of the ministry. Addressing them, Minister of Foreign Affairs Velayati spoke about the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime in the war against the Islamic Republic of Iran and about the report issued by the UN fact-finding mission sent to Tehran. He called on all countries of the world to seriously consider decisions on banning the use, manufacture, and possession of chemical weapons.

Expounding on Saddam's crimes in the imposed war, the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime, and the raising of this issue in international circles by the Islamic Republic during the past 2 months, Mr Velayati said: The first report of the UN mission to Iran and Iraq contains some shocking statistics on the Iraqi regime's attacks on civilian areas, but international circles have shown no appropriate reaction to halt the continuation of such crimes.

Referring to several notes sent to various organizations and evidence and documents on Iraq's use of chemical weapons submitted to the disarmament conference, Mr Velayati said: Encouraged by the silence of these organizations, the Iraqi regime has greatly increased its crimes. Only after observing the wounded and injured (?warriors), who were sent to several countries, did some personalities and international organizations come to realize the seriousness of a danger which has attracted the attention of all human societies.

With regard to publication of the report prepared by the UN fact-finding mission, the foreign minister said: This document left no excuses for those who were still hesitant despite all the evidence. And the Islamic Republic of Iran, through bitter experience gained at a high price, informs the world public of a very vital and important fact: Unfortunately, international organizations, and primarily the United Nations, 4 decades after its establishment, not only lack executive power to fight against inhuman crimes — which have been banned by all countries through international charters and agreements — but also are even incapable of expressing verbal objections [as heard] to these principles accepted by the peoples of the world. Certainly, people of the world are wondering whether the aggressive Iraqi regime would have dared commit such a terrible crime on a large scale if international circles had shown an appropriate reaction, even in words if not in deeds.

Emphasizing that this problem is a serious alarm and a warning to international circles, the foreign minister said: The issue of using chemical weapons, which have been banned in accordance with several international agreements and resolutions, is so serious that a prompt solution should be found at the international level. In these circumstances, how can one interpret the cautious and reserved attitude of some countries with regard to this danger? Can political caution be greater than respect for safeguarding the vital interests of human society? Will the free use of chemical weapons automatically endanger the existence of the entire population of the world? Will such easy violations of international regulations — and particularly violation of an agreement which implicitly banned such crimes even before the 1925 protocol, in the 1907 agreement of the Hague — leave any guarantee that other international rules will be respected?

Continuing his remarks, referring to the point that the absence of any appropriate reaction to the first report of the United Nations has encouraged Iraq to continue its crimes, Mr Velayati said: The people of the world anxiously await reaction from international circles and their own countries' leaders with regard to these crimes. If such reactions are not suitable, effective, and preventative, a green light for continuation of such crimes will be given to other aggressors which could only be turned off with the death and torture of thousands of people in various parts of the world and after a very long time.

Mr Velayati added: Once again, as an ultimatum, we announce that it is not sufficient to condemn the Iraqi regime for using such weapons through the world organization. Rather, in addition to that, decisions must be taken for serious banning of the use, manufacture, and possession of these weapons, through bilateral contacts or international organizations, in an effective manner.

Addressing those countries which have placed such weapons at Iraq's disposal, Mr Velayati said: These countries are as responsible as Iraq for the crimes committed against us and, in fact, against all mankind.

Our correspondent reports that at the end of his remarks, our country's minister of foreign affairs said: The issue of the use and manufacture of chemical weapons must be fully investigated as a completely independent and separate issue from that of the imposed war. But dealing with this issue in connection with the imposed war would make it more clear that the Islamic Republic of Iran is facing an aggressor which, despite all his claims, has no respect for international regulations and the most primitive humane principles. Are there still some individuals left who might ask us: Why are you not making peace with the Iraqi regime?

Superpowers' Attitude on Gulf War Scorned
GF291005 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0443 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] During the last year our combatants succeeded in inflicting heavy blows on the Iraqi aggressors. They also took other effective steps in realizing the legitimate rights of the Iranian Muslim nation. The criminal Iraqi regime, which did not have the strength to withstand the liberation movement of the Islamic combatants and considers final victory by the Islamic soldiers as equal to the end of its forcible rule in Iraq, tried desperately to force the Islamic Republic to accept an unjust imposed peace by escalating the bombing raids, missile attacks on residential areas, and the use of chemical weapons and other satanic implements. Their ultimate aim is to save themselves from the self-imposed dangerous situation.

By giving widespread political aid to the dying regime of Iraq and by hatching plots against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the world oppressors are trying to end the war within the framework of their satanic hopes and aspirations so that they can keep Saddam and the criminal Iraqi regime in power. East and West have now joined hands to keep Saddam in power and to prevent the Islamic Republic from achieving final victory.

World imperialism, on the basis of its own calculations, thinks that the destruction of the Iraqi regime and victory by the Islamic combatants would prove in practical way that the Islamic movement in the region, which has gained considerable strength, and the joining of hands by the two Islamic nations of Iran and Iraq and also by other resisting and militant governments of the region would pose a serious danger to the dependent and reactionary regimes of the region which, one after another, would meet the fate of the Iraqi regime. If this movement grows further, it will be a serious threat to the Zionist regime, which is the real and main base for imperialism in the region.

The Eastern superpower, which thinks that the growth of the Islamic movement and its taking root and the spreading of Islamic ideology and the slogan of neither East nor West would be against its own cruel and oppressive interests, could never be happy with the spread of this movement. This is in spite of the fact that the rivalries of the two superpowers in some cases make it imperative that East and West — leaving aside their common aim to prevent the growth and rule of Islam in the region — should not take a common stand. Leaving aside the economic and propaganda aid which the arch-satan gives to the criminals of Baghdad, American authorities have openly announced that victory by the Islamic Republic and the defeat of Iraq would jeopardize the interests of the United States.

During the last year world imperialism has tried to impose peace through threats and military intervention and by putting political and economic pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran. By giving political, economic, and military aid to the dying regime of Iraq, it wanted to save Saddam from a calamity.

In his meetings with the ambassadors of Arab regimes in Iraq some time ago, Saddam openly said that the destruction of the Iraqi regime would amount to the destruction of all the Arab regimes. While thanking them for their economic and arms aid, Saddam asked them for additional aid and also asked them to take an active part in the war against the Islamic Republic.

The Eastern superpower, while abstaining from identifying and comdemning the aggressor and by keeping silent in the face of the continuous crimes of the Iraq regime — like the firing of missiles and bombing of residential and civilian areas in our country — has offered its support for efforts to attain a so-called friendly peace, but in fact it has taken the side of the Iraqi rulers. Despite Iran's irrefutable documentary proof and evidence in international forums that the Iraqi regime has used chemical weapons — and most of the physicians in the European countries who treated the victims confirmed the use of chemical weapons and poisonous gas — the Soviet Union has kept silent about these cruel and inhuman actions of the Iraqi regime.

Under international law, the use of chemical weapons and poison gas is condemned, and the use of these weapons, according to international agreements which have been accepted by the Soviet Union, is banned. According to a report published by the United Nations, it has been confirmed that Iraq did use chemical weapons. This fact does not leave any room for any government to make any excuse to disown responsibility in the face of the criminal Iraqi regime's use of chemical weapons.

In spite of the continuous bombardment and missile attacks on residential areas in our cities last year by the Iraqi regime and the repeated protests by the Islamic Republic to international and regional bodies, these organizations also failed to take any firm stand. The United Nations, ignoring the report submitted by its delegation which visited Iran and Iraq for this very purpose, abstained from taking a stand against the actions of the Iraqi regime in destroying and bombing residential areas and martyring a number of defenseless civilians.

Chief Justice on Security of Hormuz

LD291626 Tehran IRNA in English 1549 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] Bandar 'Abbas, March 29, IRNA — The chief justice, Ayatollah Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili who is currently visiting the Hormuzgan Province, south Iran, today outlined various issues of the country and those of the Persian Gulf in a meeting with a group of staff of the governor general office here.

Referring to the vicious ploys of the superpowers in the Persian Gulf aimed at hurting the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Ardabili said the security of the Persian Gulf would be maintained for as long as the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran were secured. He reiterated that the day Iran felt any danger from the side of the superpowers then the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz would be made unsafe.

Dutch Bill on U.S.-Iranian Litigation Protested

LD292246 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] The Netherlands charge d'affaires today met with the legal and parliamentary under secretary at the Foreign Ministry, Mir-Mahdi. Mir-Mahdi handed a note of protest to the charge d'affaires in connection with a bill on the enforceability of Netherlands laws with regard to the rulings of the Hague in connection with Iranian-U.S. litigation, and said: Should the bill submitted to the parliament by the Netherlands Government be approved, its content will create certain limitations for the Islamic Republic of Iran in light of the Algerian declaration.

Enumerating the shortcomings of the bill, Mir-Mahdi said: The bill ignores international norms and sovereignty. It views the disputes between the two governments as if they are private disputes. He added: The said bill, contrary to Netherlands civil procedures which provide 10 grounds for objecting to rulings, reduces these grounds to 2. On the other hand, the rulings issued against us are enforceable in many other countries, excerpt in the Netherlands. [as heard]

The legal under secretary at the Foreign Ministry added: The bill is in fact an interpretation of a bilateral agreement on the part of the Netherlands, whereas any interpretation of the Algerian declaration is not to be made by any third government, including the Netherlands. The Islamic Republic of Iran Government, assuming the impartiality of the Netherlands Government, agreed to the Hague court's investigating the dispute in light of the Algerian declaration, whereas the text of the bill in question contravenes the assumed impartiality.

At the end of the meeting Mir-Mahdi reminded the Netherlands charge d'affaires that should the bill be approved the necessary conditions for the continuation of Iran's presence in the proceedings will no longer exist and we shall reconsider our participation.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1680

LD291742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Communique No 1680 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] During the past 24 hours clashes and an exchange of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued sporadically throughout the battlefronts of the imposed war. The most intense exchanges of fire took place in the Sumar region on the western front.

On the Piranshahr, Sardasht, and Marivan fronts, our combatants silenced the Iraqi forces' fire, disrupting enemy engineering and supply activities and at times stopping these activities totally.

The results obtained from the opening of the artillery and heavy weapons fire by Islam's combatants on the enemy's defensive regions and positions were as follows:

Part of the enemy's defensive lines and artillery and heavy weapons emplacements and one of its engineering vehicles were destroyed and a number of enemy servicemen were killed or wounded.

In the Marivan region, one of our own patrol groups penetrated into the enemy's defensive positions and, while reconnoitering the Saddamists' operational sector, captured as booty and took along with them five RPG-7's and light weapons, two radio sets, and a goniometer.

On the country's western and southern fronts Islam's mighty combatants, continuing to establish and strengthen their defensive positions and opening fire and dispatching patrol groups, observed and neutralized the movements, emplacements, and trenches of the Iraqi forces and inflicted losses and casualties on the Saddamist forces.

In the western regions, our forces destroyed several enemy trenches and one bulldozer and killed or wounded at least six servicemen. On one of the southern fronts, one Iraqi mercenary loader was totally wrecked.

Also, thanks to the activities of Islam's combatants in the west of the country, our patrolling forces, after clashing with and inflicting blows on the enemy's patrols, put to flight the patrol groups of the Saddamist mercenaries.

On the Arvand Rud fronts, Islam's powerful combatants, by opening retaliatory fire and halting the enemy's fire and the Iraqi mercenaries' vehicular traffic on the Al-Faw-Basra axis, inflicted such losses and casualties on them that in the operational zone of the gendarmerie combatants the enemy's observed losses were: the total destruction of 4 observation posts and of at least 16 light and heavy weapons and a number of servicemen killed or wounded.

The city of Abadan yesterday again came under the long-range weapons fire of the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries and as a result more than 19 shops and houses were damaged.

Iraqi POWs on CW Bombing, Basra Situation

LD291355 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] Over 1,000 troops of the Iraq Zionist regime captured in the proud Kheybar operations by the stalwart combatants of Islam arrived in Tehran by train this morning and were taken to a POW camp. Our correspondent reports that the Iraqi prisoners shouted slogans on arrival, expressing their digust at the savage deeds of the Zionist regime of Iraq in employing chemical weapons and bombing residential areas in our country.

Among the Iraqi prisoners were nationals of Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia. Iraqi reservist Sa'id 'Abd al-Karim told our correspondent how he had been taken prisoner:

I am from Basra, and I have been serving for 4 years because the war has lasted so long and pressure from the Ba'thist regime. I am from the 5th Brigade of the 19th Division of Iraq and was taken prisoner by the Iranian forces together with a large number of Iraqi soldiers following the attack by Iranian troops.

On Iraq's use of chemical bombs, the Iraqi prisoner said: I saw one of these bombings. Following an attack by the Islamic combatants, an Iraqi aircraft dropped chemical bombs on the operational area, as a result of which Iraqi forces were also injured. Dozens of them who were in the Majnun Islands were wounded.

In conclusion, he described Basra as being in an unenviable situation, and added: The people are being held in Basra by force to prevent depopulation of the town.

Another prisoner commented thus on conditions of his detention: I am from Karbala and a member of the Popular Army. After being on the Majnun Islands for 3 days I was taken prisoner by the combatants of Islam. We were dragged to the war by force, but after the attack by the combatants of Islam, I surrendered to the Iranian forces together with 180 others from Karbala and Popular Army forces. In conclusion, he praised the treatment of Iraqi prisoners by the Islamic forces.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Visits Montazeri, Others

LD291633 Tehran IRNA in English 1608 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] Qom, march 29, IRNA — The Majlis speaker and the special representative of Imam Khomeyni in the Supreme Defence Council, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani met and conferred with Ayatollah Montazeri at the latter's residence here this morning. During the meeting the Majlis speaker reported to Ayatollah Montazeri on the current situation of the country. Ayatollah Montazeri thanked the Majlis speaker and provided him with the necessary guidelines.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani who is currently visiting the holy city of Qom and the holy shrine of Hadrat Ma'sumeh (a.s.) will attend a special ceremony at the holy shrine marking the fifth anniversary of the Islamic Republic Day, April 1.

Meanwhile Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani in separate meeting here today met and talked with Ayatollah Marashi Najafi. In this meeting issues related to the qom theological centre were discussed. Ayatollah Narashi Najafi prayed for the victory of the Islamic combatants and the well being of Iranian nation.

In another meeting here, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsahaji met with head of the Assembly of Experts and Friday prayers leader of Qom, Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini.

Assembly of Experts To Convene 14 July

LD291802 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] Qom, March 29, IRNA — The next session of Assembly of Experts for the current Iranian year is scheduled to be held on July 14, 1984, it was decided here today in a meeting of the Assembly's Secretariat board. In today's meeting, decisions were made on the agenda of the coming session.

IRGC Officials, Minister Report to President

LD291334 Tehran IRNA in English 1727 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 29, IRNA — The minister and the deputy commander of the Islamic Revolutions' Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Rafiqdust and Mohammad Sham'khani met and conferred with the president and head of the Supreme Defence Council Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i Wednesday. In this meeting the president was provided with a report on the situation of the warfronts, position of the IRGC and also the IRGC's military industries.

In another development yesterday, the president received Minister of Construction Jihad Bijan Zanganeh who presented a report to the president on his recent visits to the southern provinces of Khuzestan and Hormuzgan.

In both meetings Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i gave some necessary guidelines.

Judicial Officials Visit Guards Center Prisoners

GF300700 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Mr Musavi-Ardabili, the chief justice of the Supreme Court, accompanied by Mr Moqtada'i, member and spokesman of the Supreme Judicial Council, and some of the judges of Hormuzgan Province attended a gathering of penitent counterrevolutionaries at the barracks of the Islamic Revolution Guards Center in Bandar 'Abbas yesterday afternoon. In his speech, Musavi-Ardabili discussed the need to uphold the objectives of the Islamic Revolution and the superpowers' conspiracies in the Islamic country. The chief justice then visited various sections of the barracks and attended to the problem of the prisoners' difficulties resulting from close quarters.

Zia, Khamene'i Exchange Greetings Messages

GF292012 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1900 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Summary] Mohammad Ziaul Haq, the president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, during his flight over Iran on his way back to Pakistan, sent a message to President Khamene'i in which he expressed his best wishes to Mr Khamene'i and the Iranian people. President Khamene'i in a reply message also expressed his best wishes to the Pakistani president and the brotherly nation of Pakistan.

NVOI Assails Use of Iranian Children in Gulf War

TA271454 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Unattributed commentary: "Rulers of the Islamic Republic of Iran — Foes of Innocent Children"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots, despite false claims by the Islamic Republic of Iran's expansionist and bloodthirsty rulers regarding brilliant victories in the imposed war between Iran and Iraq, documents, figures, and testimonies bitterly prove that the only so-called success these man-eaters have achieved are the hundreds of thousands of casualties on both sides as well as numerous military and economic losses for both countries. The regime's leaders are foolishly propagandizing, with a great deal of fanfare, the need to continue the war until victory. This futile war of attrition has achieved nothing for the Iranian people except hundreds of thousands killed, maimed, and wounded, as well as destruction, homelessness, and bankruptcy.

It is in view of this bitter and devastating fact that our homeland's people reject the continuation of the war and demand its termination. It is only the regime's leaders who see in the war's prolongation the continuation of their own disgraceful rule. They are not at all ready to acknowledge defeat in their warmongering policy. Therefore, they stubbornly and obstinately prolong and escalate it and dispatch thousands of our homeland's youths to the war's slaughterhouse in order to alleviate their passion for killing, deriving satisfaction over the killing of Iranian youths.

They do not even hesitate to send Iranian children to the war. Right now thousands of Iranian children are in Iraqi camps as prisoners of war, and despite efforts by international organizations, the Islamic rulers are refraining from taking back these innocent children and returning them to the embrace of their parents. Official UN documents and reports by foreign military correspondents about Iranian children POW's disgrace the Islamic Republic's rulers further.

Notwithstanding indisputable facts, the rulers of the Islamic Republic claim that Iranian children are not prisoners of war but rather were captured by Iraq at the beginning of the war and taken there. However, these children POW's themselves are exposing the regime's lies. Statements by these children indicate that the regime used them widely in military operations as cannonfodder. They were forced to cross over minefields in order to clear the way for the advance of the Iranian Army, in the process of which thousands of Iranian children were killed and only a very limited number managed to remain alive and be captured.

The Islamic regime — those hypocritical gentlemen — is sending children to the battlefront whereas international law strictly forbids children from serving as soldiers. Iran has signed the UN resolution about the adoption of necessary decisions for preventing the participation of persons under 15 years of age in military operations, but the Islamic Republic's rulers do not implement this resolution.

Our homeland's people demand an end to the imposed war and the establishment of a just and honorable peace.

Clandestine Radio on Clashes in Kermanshah

GF271630 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] According to reports received here, thousands of Kermanshah residents who reached the end of their endurance have staged mass demonstrations and condemned Khomeyni's warmongering policies. While mourning the loss of their departed dear ones at the city's cemeteries, they shouted slogans demanding the toppling of the mullahs' regime and an end to the Islamic Republic's fruitless war with Iraq.

The same source said that in a clash between the mercenary guards of the regime and the angered people of Kermanshah, some were wounded and a large number of the city's residents were arrested. Nationalist sources stated that the clash began wheh thousands of families visited the cemeteries in the city where their offspring and relatives who had lost their lives in the war were buried. Amid loud cries and wailing, they shouted slogans against the schizophrenic, warmongering Khomeyni and the regime's policy of continuing the war.

Some of the wounded in a Kermanshah hospital refused to meet Khomeyni's representative from Tehran who had come to visit them and shouted protests, preventing his entrance into the hospital. The report adds: Thousands of night letters have been distributed in Kermanshah lately inviting people to demonstrate against the regime.

Clandestine Notes Terrorist Activities in Europe

GF251741 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] The terrorist-nurturing Khomeyni regime has resumed its terrorist operations in Europe in order to destroy its opposition.

According to confirmed reports reaching us, the Hezbollah terrorist network in Europe, which had reduced its activities following the assassination of Genral Oveysi, resumed 2 weeks ago by planning a series of assassinations of the regime's opposition. The operations are centered in Paris. The overall leader of these operations is Ayatollah (?Khoshnesa'i), the head of Khomeyni's espionage network in the Vatican.

[begin correspondent's recorded telephone report] The center for coordination of these operations continues to be Paris and the agents who assassinated Oveysi — who are still in Paris — are planning new operations. A number of arms consignments have reached Paris through the FRG, Belgium, and Switzerland.

Opposition sources have managed to identify two Iranian gun runners holding diplomatic passports at Zurich Airport. Apparently they were unable to make an air connection to Paris and hence were trying to find another way to carry out their mission.

In addition, early this month, French intelligence sources managed to find clues about a new Islamic Republic terrorist gang in a large hotel in Paris' (?Mon Parnet) district.

It is reported that the Islamic Republic has recently employed a number of former Nazi officers, who have turned Muslim, to head the consultant team for its terrorist activities. One such individual is (Alex Brunem), who was a Gestapo officer in 1940 and has been a consultant to Syrian security services over the past few years.

Another Hezbollahi center of operation, in addition to Paris, is in GDR with a branch in West Berlin. [end correspondent's telephone report]